

3/30/77

2/24/77

POL 27-11 R

BN 32

Tony:

You asked about the various tallies of victims of political violence.

~~Videla told L'Express~~ ^{reports} that 1,409 persons were killed for political reasons in 1976 and 172 from Jan. 1 to March of this year. ~~His~~ Figures correspond with those used by the local press on reported deaths (such as BA Herald and La Opinion) and that used by the New York Times of approximately 1,400-1,500 deaths in 1976 and tally with my own figures of reported deaths for 1977. (My figure is now 198 through March 17.) In our reports for 1975, developed from Amnesty and several other sources, we stated that about 2,000 persons died in political violence in 1975.

The ERP/Commission of Families of Political Prisoners flyer speaks of 5,000 dead; 30,000 detained and 15,000 disappeared, apparently since the arrival of the military govt a year ago.

The Argentine govt says that its total jail capacity is 3,500-4,000 and that its jails are not overfilled. It is the only answer it gives to numbers of detainees. Maybe 1200 persons have been listed as having been "released from Executive power" since Dec. 1 and the press was reporting that 1600 were released up to December but ~~we have~~ the lists are rather discredited. Since publishing weekly lists, somewhat more persons are listed as having been arrested than released.

Amnesty International, and other human rights groups use the figure 20,000 persons arrested or disappeared for political reasons.

The Catholic Church says it knows of 5,000 cases ~~of~~ ^{Church} political prisoners or disappeareds and one source says he believes the 20,000 figure.

Take your choice.

11 dead

9 US citizens arrested for terrorism

8 are women under 30

1 - W. Walker

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

80 F 17
20/18